



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

ml

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,819	07/30/2003	Takeshi Watanabe	R2184.0245/P245	7294

24998 7590 02/15/2007
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 EYE STREET NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403

EXAMINER

GUPTA, PARUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2627

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/15/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/629,819	Applicant(s) WATANABE, TAKESHI	
	Examiner Parul Gupta	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-30 are pending for examination as interpreted by the examiner. The arguments filed on 1/22/07 were considered with the following results.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-23, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehr, US Patent 6,453,395 in view of Tatano, JP401173487A in view of Iida et al., US Patent Publication 2002/0027848.

Regarding claim 1, Gehr teaches a method of creating a backup disc of a source optical disc having a read-only storage area and a writable storage area (figure 4), the method comprising: a qualification determination step of determining whether or not a target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc of the hybrid type source optical disc (column 4, lines 9-28); a loading step of loading, when it is determined that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc, backup information from the source optical disc (column 1, lines 56-67); and a writing step of writing the backup information in the target optical disc (completion of the copy process as explained in column 1, lines 64-67). Gehr does not but Tatano teaches in the constitution comparing the source optical disc to the target optical disc based on information recorded in the source optical disc and the target optical disc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

Art Unit: 2627

at the time of the invention to include the concept of the given details as taught by Tatano into the system of Gehr for the motivation of preventing the error of the backup copying (purpose section of Tatano). Neither of the other references teaches, but lida et al. teaches using a hybrid optical disk for a similar purpose in the recording apparatus (paragraph 0142). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the given details as taught by lida et al. into the system of Gehr modified by Tatano for the motivation of making the system more versatile.

Regarding claim 10, Gehr teaches a system of creating a backup disc of a source optical disc having a read-only storage area and a writable storage area (figure 4), comprising: a qualification determination part determining whether or not a target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc of the hybrid type source optical disc (part of element 404 of figure 4); a loading part loading, when it is determined that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc, backup information from the source optical disc (figure 4); and a writing part writing the backup information in the target optical disc (shown as elements 726 and 734 in figure 7C). Gehr does not but Tatano teaches in the constitution comparing the source optical disc to the target optical disc based on information recorded in the source optical disc and the target optical disc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of the given details as taught by Tatano into the system of Gehr in order to prevent the error of the backup copying (purpose section of Tatano). Neither of the other references teaches, but lida et al. teaches using a hybrid optical disk. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

include the given details as taught by lida et al. into the system of Gehr modified by Tatano to make the system more versatile.

Regarding claim 19, Tatano teaches a computer-readable recording medium for storing a program (inherent to method of claim 1) to cause a computer to execute a procedure of creating a backup disc of a source optical disc having a read-only storage area and a writable storage area (figure 4), the procedure comprising: a qualification determination step of determining whether or not a target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc of the hybrid type source optical disc (part of element 404 of figure 4); a loading step of loading, when it is determined that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc, backup information from the source optical disc (figure 4); and a writing step of writing the backup information in the target optical disc (shown as elements 726 and 734 in figure 7C). Gehr does not but Tatano teaches in the constitution comparing the source optical disc to the target optical disc based on information recorded in the source optical disc and the target optical disc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of the given details as taught by Tatano into the system of Gehr in order to prevent the error of the backup copying (purpose section of Tatano). Neither of the other references teaches, but lida et al. teaches using a hybrid optical disk for a similar purpose in the recording apparatus (paragraph 0142). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the given details as taught by lida et al. into the system of Gehr modified by Tatano to make the system more versatile.

Regarding claim 2, lida et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a disc determination step of determining whether or not the target optical disc is a hybrid type disc (paragraph 0386), and wherein the qualification determination step occurs when the disc determination step determines that the target optical disc is a hybrid type disc (paragraph 0386).

Regarding claim 11, lida et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising: a disc determination part determining whether or not the target optical disc is a hybrid type disc (step F103), and wherein the qualification determination part determines whether or not the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc when the disc determination part determines that the target optical disc is a hybrid type disc (figure 43).

Regarding claim 20, lida et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller of element 10 of figure 42 in order to perform method of claim 2) as claimed in claim 19, the procedure further comprising: a disc determination step of determining whether or not the target optical disc is a hybrid type disc, and wherein the qualification determination step occurs when the disc determination step determines that the target optical disc is a hybrid type disc.

Regarding claim 3, lida et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a disc determination step of determining whether or not the target optical disc has predetermined compatibility with the hybrid type source optical disc (paragraph 0386), and wherein the qualification determination step occurs when the disc

Art Unit: 2627

determination step determines that the target optical disc has predetermined compatibility with the hybrid type source optical disc (paragraph 0386).

Regarding claim 12, Iida et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising: a disc determination part determining whether or not the target optical disc has predetermined compatibility with the hybrid type source optical disc (step F103), and wherein the qualification determination part determines whether or not the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc when the disc determination part determines that the target optical disc has predetermined compatibility with the hybrid type source optical disc (figure 43).

Regarding claim 21, Iida et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller of element 10 of figure 42 in order to perform method of claim 3) as claimed in claim 19, the procedure further comprising: a disc determination step of determining whether or not the target optical disc has predetermined compatibility with the hybrid type source optical disc, and wherein the qualification determination step occurs when the disc determination step determines that the target optical disc has predetermined-compatibility with the hybrid type source optical disc. Iida teaches in the above given sections a method of checking to see if the disk is hybrid, but not compatible with a hybrid disk. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of checking for compatibility with a hybrid disk in addition to checking if the target is a hybrid disk. The motivation would be to make the system more adaptable to different kinds of media.

Regarding claim 4, Iida et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the qualification determination step comprises: a substrate qualification determination step of determining whether or not the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information (paragraph 0384); and a ROM qualification determination step of determining whether or not at least a portion of ROM information of the source optical disc in a read-only storage area thereof and at least a portion of ROM information of the target optical disc in a read-only storage area thereof are the same (same step in paragraph 0384 checks the validity of the ROM information), and the qualification determination step determines that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc when the substrate qualification determination step determines that the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and the ROM qualification determination step determines that the portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and the portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are the same.

Regarding claim 13, Iida et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the qualification determination part comprises: a substrate qualification determination part determining whether or not the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information (part of step F101 of figure 43); and a ROM qualification determination part determining whether or not at least a portion of ROM information of the source optical disc in a read-only storage area thereof and at least a portion of ROM information of the target optical disc in a read-only storage area thereof are the same (step F101 of figure 43 checks the validity of the ROM

Art Unit: 2627

information), and the qualification determination part determines that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc when the substrate qualification determination part determines that the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and the ROM qualification determination part determines that the portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and the portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are the same (only proceeds if step is passed).

Regarding claim 22, Iida et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller of element 10 of figure 42 in order to perform method of claim 4) as claimed in claim 19, wherein the qualification determination step comprises: a substrate qualification determination step of determining whether or not the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information; and a ROM qualification determination step of determining whether or not at least a portion of ROM information of the source optical disc in a read-only storage area thereof and at least a portion of ROM information of the target optical disc in a read-only storage area thereof are the same, and the qualification determination step determines that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc when the substrate qualification determination step determines that the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and the ROM qualification determination step determines that the portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and the portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are the same.

Regarding claim 5, lida et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the substrate information comprises at least one of lead-in start time, lead-out start time and a write strategy parameter (part of the TOC as recited in paragraph 0384).

Regarding claim 14, lida et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the substrate information comprises at least one of lead-in start time, lead-out start time and a write strategy parameter (part of the TOC as recited in paragraph 0384).

Regarding claim 23, lida et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller of element 10 of figure 42 in order to perform method of claim 5) as claimed in claim 22, wherein the substrate information comprises at least one of lead-in start time, lead-out start time and a write strategy parameter.

Regarding claim 7, lida et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backup information comprises RAM information recorded in a writable storage area of the source optical disc, and the writing step writes said RAM information in a writable storage area of the target optical disc (paragraphs 0394 and 0395).

Regarding claim 16, lida et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the backup information comprises RAM information recorded in a writable storage area of the source optical disc, and the writing part writes said RAM information in a writable storage area of the target optical disc (shown in figures 45 and 46).

Regarding claim 25, lida et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller of element 10 of figure 42 in order to perform method of

Art Unit: 2627

claim 7) as claimed in claim 19, wherein the backup information comprises RAM information recorded in a writable storage area of the source optical disc, and the writing step writes said RAM information in a writable storage area of the target optical disc.

Regarding claim 8, Iida et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the backup information comprises RAM information recorded in a writable storage area of the source optical disc and the ROM information of the source optical disc, and the writing step writes said RAM information (paragraph 0440) and said ROM information (paragraph 0439) in a writable storage area of the target optical disc when the qualification determination step determines that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc based on determination of the dummy data determination step.

Regarding claim 17, Iida et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the backup information comprises RAM information recorded in a writable storage area of the source optical disc and the ROM information of the source optical disc, and the writing part writes said RAM (step F401) information and said ROM information (step F404) in a writable storage area of the target optical disc when the qualification determination part determines that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc based on determination of the dummy data determination part (figure 46).

Regarding claim 26, Iida et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller of element 10 of figure 42 in order to perform method of claim 8) as claimed in claim 24, wherein the backup information comprises RAM

Art Unit: 2627

information recorded in a writable storage area of the source optical disc and the ROM information of the source optical disc, and the writing step writes said RAM information and said ROM information in a writable storage area of the target optical disc when the qualification determination step determines that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc based on determination of the dummy data determination step.

Regarding claim 9, lida et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hybrid type disc comprises a CD descent disc or a DVD descent disc (paragraph 0014 describes how various types of CD-format discs include "hybrid disks").

Regarding claim 18, lida et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the hybrid type disc comprises a CD descent disc or a DVD descent disc (paragraph 0014 describes how various types of CD-format discs include "hybrid disks").

Regarding claim 27, lida et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller of element 10 of figure 42 in order to perform method of claim 9) as claimed in claim 19, wherein the hybrid type disc comprises a CD descent disc or a DVD descent disc (paragraph 0014 describes how various types of CD-format discs include "hybrid disks").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of the given method of checking the compatibility of backup hybrid disks as taught by lida et al. into the system of Tatano in view of Gehr. This would serve the purpose of easily and precisely determining the physical

Art Unit: 2627

characteristics of discs without impairing the compatibility with known CD-format discs (paragraph 0017 of Iida et al.).

3. Claims 6, 15, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatano in view of Gehr in view of Iida et al., further in view of Fairman et al., US Patent 6,898,172.

Tatano in view of Gehr in view of Iida et al. teaches the limitations of the ROM qualification elements as claimed in claims 4, 13, and 22 but does not specify what to do if the data is dummy data.

Regarding claim 6, Fairman et al. teaches the method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the qualification determination step comprises: a dummy data determination step of determining whether or not the ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data when the substrate qualification determination step determines that the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and the ROM qualification determination step determines that the portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and the portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are not the same, said qualification determination step determining, when the dummy data determination step determines that the ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data, that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc (column 8, lines 15-43).

Regarding claim 15, Fairman et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the qualification determination part comprises: a dummy data determination

Art Unit: 2627

part (element 163 of figure 5) determining whether or not the ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data when the substrate qualification determination part determines that the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and the ROM qualification determination part determines that the portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and the portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are not the same, said qualification determination part determining, when the dummy data determination part determines that the ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data, that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc (rewritten in element 172).

Regarding claim 24, Fairman et al. teaches the computer-readable recording medium (inherent to system controller in order to perform method of claim 6) as claimed in claim 22, wherein the qualification determination step comprises: a dummy data determination step of determining whether or not the ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data when the substrate qualification determination step determines that the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and the ROM qualification determination step determines that the portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and the portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are not the same, said qualification determination step determining, when the dummy data determination step determines that the ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data, that the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of overwriting dummy data as taught by Fairman et al. into the system of Tatano in view of Gehr in view of Iida et al. This will control the EFM generator to write only the nominal-depth frequency-modulated-wobbled groove (column 8, lines 15-43 of Fairman et al.).

4. Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fairman et al. in view of Tatano.

Regarding claim 28 Fairman et al. teaches in column 8 a method of creating a backup disc of a hybrid type source optical disc (column 8, lines 6-8) having a read-only storage area and a writable storage area (conventional as given in column 1, lines 40-44), the method comprising: determining that ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data when the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and a portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and a portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are not the same (lines 6-43); loading backup information ("ATIP" of line 40) from the source optical disc, the backup information including RAM information recorded in the writable storage area of the source optical disc and the ROM information recorded in the read-only storage area of the source optical disc (column 5, lines 60-67 gives all of the information contained in the ATIP); and writing said backup information to the target optical disc (lines 40-43). Fairman et al. does not but Tatano teaches in the constitution comparing the source optical disc to the target optical disc based on information recorded in the source optical

Art Unit: 2627

disc and the target optical disc to determine whether the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc of the source optical disc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of the given details as taught by Tatano into the system of Fairman et al. for the motivation of preventing the error of the backup copying (purpose section of Tatano).

Regarding claim 29 Fairman et al. teaches in figure 5 a system of creating a backup disc of a hybrid type source optical disc (column 8, lines 6-8) having a read-only storage area and a writable storage area (conventional as given in column 1, lines 40-44), comprising: a dummy data determination part (163) determining that ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data when the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and a portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and a portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are not the same; a loading part (168) loading backup information from the source optical disc, the backup information ("ATIP" of column 8, line 40) including RAM information recorded in the writable storage area of the source optical disc and the ROM information recorded in the read-only storage area of the source optical disc (column 5, lines 60-67 gives all of the information contained in the ATIP); and a writing part (172) writing the backup information to the target optical disc. Fairman et al. does not but Tatano teaches in the constitution comparing the source optical disc to the target optical disc based on information recorded in the source optical disc and the target optical disc to determine whether the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc of the source optical disc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

Art Unit: 2627

art at the time of the invention to include the concept of the given details as taught by Tatano into the system of Fairman et al. for the motivation of preventing the error of the backup copying (purpose section of Tatano).

Regarding claim 30, Fairman et al. teaches a computer-readable recording medium (inherent to method of claim 28) for storing a program to cause a computer to execute a procedure of creating a backup disc of a hybrid type source optical disc (column 8, lines 6-8) having a read-only storage area and a writable storage area (conventional as given in column 1, lines 40-44), the procedure comprising: a dummy data determination step of determining that ROM information of the target optical disc is dummy data when the source optical disc and the target optical disc have the same substrate information and a portion of ROM information of the source optical disc and a portion of ROM information of the target optical disc are not the same (column 8, lines 6-43); a loading step of loading backup information ("ATIP" of column 8, line 40) from the source optical disc, the backup information including RAM information recorded in the writable storage area of the source optical disc and the ROM information recorded in the read-only storage area of the source optical disc (column 5, lines 60-67 gives all of the information contained in the ATIP); and a writing step of writing the backup information to the target optical disc (column 8, lines 40-43). Fairman et al. does not but Tatano teaches in the constitution comparing the source optical disc to the target optical disc based on information recorded in the source optical disc and the target optical disc to determine whether the target optical disc is qualified as the backup disc of the source optical disc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Art Unit: 2627

the invention to include the concept of the given details as taught by Tatano into the system of Fairman et al. for the motivation of preventing the error of the backup copying (purpose section of Tatano).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 1/22/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends that Tatano does not disclose the same qualification step as the application. However, Tatano is only relied upon for the comparison of the source and target optical disc for the purpose of identifying whether or not the target is an acceptable target based on the information recorded on the backup. The main concept of comparison is already given in Gehr, but the details of checking backup information of each disk are not explicitly disclosed. Tatano is relied upon only for these details, which are disclosed in the abstract.

Conclusion

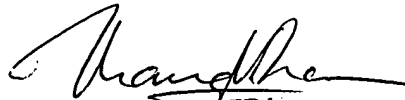
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Parul Gupta whose telephone number is 571-272-5260. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 AM to 7 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Korzuch can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PHG
2/8/07



THANG V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER